

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS 117
CE ABE FORTAS

April 23, 1969

Mr. William Lambert
Associate Editor
LIFE
Time & Life Building
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Lambert:

I have your letter of April 21 asking to meet with me "at least by Friday, April 25 if [I] can make some time available." Your letter states that you wish to discuss my "association with Mr. Wolfson" so that you might "provide me with an opportunity to explain any information in [your] possession that might indicate an impropriety on [my] part."

Since there has been no impropriety, or anything approaching it, in my conduct, no purpose would be served by any such meeting.

Mr. Porter, of Arnold & Porter, has told me you are interested in obtaining a chronology, and I am glad to send you the following information: The firm with which I was associated before I became a Justice of this Court was retained by one of Mr. Wolfson's companies in May or June, 1965, as I remember. I was nominated as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in July of 1965, and took office in October. I began reducing my activities in the firm after the nomination, pending actually taking office, and most of the work on the account was done by others in the firm. If you are interested in more information on this subject, Mr. Porter has access to the facts and can presumably answer any questions concerning this

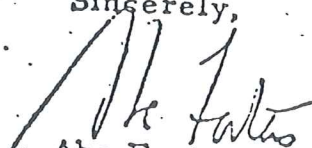
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that may be appropriate. I understand he has offered to do so.

Apart from this, my only "association" with Mr. Wolfson had to do with conversations beginning when I first met him in 1965, in which he told me of the program of the Wolfson Family Foundation in Jacksonville to promote racial and religious understanding and co-existence and to provide financial assistance, on a non-denominational basis, to candidates for the clergy.

In June of 1966, I had the pleasure of a brief visit to Mr. Wolfson's famous horse farm, and during that trip to Florida I was present at a meeting of the Wolfson Family Foundation during which some of those present described some of its programs and, as I recall, discussed some of the pending scholarship applications. I did not, of course, participate in any of Mr. Wolfson's business or legal affairs during that visit, nor have I done so at any time since I retired from law practice. In fact, my recollection is that Mr. Wolfson himself was not present at the meeting of the Family Foundation.

Sincerely,


Abe Fortas

PERSONAL